Release of funds for strengthening nursing schools

2352. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 14 proposals for Central assistance of Rs. 10 lakh in each case for strengthening of existing nursing schools and colleges in the State of Karnataka are pending with the centre since September, 2007 for clearance and release of funds; and

(b) if so, by when the proposals are likely to be cleared and funds released?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) 14 proposals were received from the State of Karnataka for strengthening of existing schools and colleges of nursing. Funds have been released to 6 institutions and remaining 8 proposals would be considered only after receiving the necessary Utilization Certificate and statement of Expenditure from these Institutions.

NCHRH

2353. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated steps for setting up of National Council for Human Resources in Health (NCHRH);

(b) whether the proposed Regulatory Body, NCHRH is to usher in reforms in Medical Education Sector by super-seeding the present regulatory bodies like Medical Council of India, Nursing Council of India, Dental Council of India, Pharmacy Council of India, etc.; that have so far failed to deliver; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) This Ministry has proposed to set up a National Council for Human Resources in Health as an overarching regulatory body for the health sector to reform the current regulatory framework and enhance supply of skilled personnel. A Task Force under the chairmanship of Union Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) has been constituted to deliberate upon the issue of setting up the proposed National Council. The Task Force shall submit its report to the Ministry by 31st July, 2009.

Unwillingness of doctors to work in the rural areas

2354. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that doctors are not willing to work in the rural areas on one pretext or the other;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the people in the rural areas do not get adequate medical treatment; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to solve this crucial problem?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) There is indeed a general preference amongst the doctors for posting at locations which are closer to urban areas. Therefore, there is some shortage of critical human resources in public health delivery system in rural areas in some states in the country and consequently adequate medical treatment is sometimes not available.

To remedy this situation, the Government has operationalised the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in all states. Under NRHM, states have undertaken comprehensive rationalization of Human Resources (HR) policies to optimize utilisation of available HR. States have also deployed innovative strategies including contractual appointments, multi-skilling trainings, pooling of doctors etc. to ensure availability of critical skills at all levels. The training capacity in states for critical cadres has been augmented and norms for post graduate trainings have been amended to allow higher intake. The availability of services in underserved areas is also being augmented through innovative pro poor partnerships with private providers. All these steps have improved the availability of adequate medical treatment in rural areas.

Purchase of substandard Unani medicines

2355. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sub-standard Unani medicines are being procured at exorbitant rates;

(b) whether it is also a fact that genuine medicines are available at lower rates;

(c) whether Government is aware that there is a scam in the procurement of Unani medicines; and

(d) if so, whether Government would order an enquiry into the whole matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No. Unani drugs are procured only from drug manufacturers having Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Certificate to ensure quality of drugs. Under the Department of AYUSH, Unani drugs are being procured by Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) and ten Unani CGHS Dispensaries either from Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL), which is a Public Sector Undertaking or through open tenders on All India Basis.

Procurement of Unani drugs by State Governments under the Hospitals and Dispensaries scheme of the Department of AYUSH is to be made through IMPCL, State Government Pharmacies and Cooperative Societies.

(c) No.